

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF MOUNTAINEER CELLULAR GENERAL)	
PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE)	CASE NO.
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO)	95-313
CONSTRUCT A TOWER)	

O R D E R

On August 17, 1995, Mountaineer Cellular General Partnership ("Mountaineer Cellular") filed an application seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to build and operate a cellular radio telecommunications system for Rural Service Area No. 10 ("RSA No. 10"). RSA No. 10 includes Breathitt, Estill, Jackson, Knott, Lee, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, Powell, and Wolfe counties. Mountaineer Cellular has requested authorization to construct a cell site in Owsley County. Mountaineer Cellular was previously granted authority to operate a cellular radio telecommunications system in RSA No. 10 in Case No. 91-002.¹

The proposed cell site consists of a 300-foot or less guyed antenna tower to be located 1.6 miles southeast of the intersection of State Routes 30 and 28 near Booneville, Owsley County, Kentucky ("the Booneville cell site"). The coordinates for the Booneville

¹ Case No. 91-002, The Application of Mountaineer Cellular General Partnership for the Issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service to the Public and for Establishment of Initial Rates.

cell site are North Latitude 37° 27' 49" by West Longitude 83° 39' 01".

Mountaineer Cellular has provided information regarding the structure of the tower, safety measures, and antenna design criteria for the Booneville cell site. Based upon the application, the design of the tower and foundation appears to meet the criteria of the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. National Building Code with reference to earthquakes, winds, and tornadoes.

Pursuant to KRS 100.324(1), the Booneville cell site's construction is exempt from local zoning ordinances; however, Mountaineer Cellular notified the Owsley County Judge/Executive of the pending construction. The Booneville cell site property was purchased from the only persons who own property or reside within 500 feet of the tower, eliminating the need for public notice. In addition, notice was posted in a visible location on the proposed site for at least two weeks after Mountaineer Cellular's application was filed. Mountaineer Cellular has filed applications with the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") and the Kentucky Airport Zoning Commission ("KAZC") seeking approval for the construction and operation of the Booneville cell site. Both applications are pending.

Pursuant to KRS 278.280, the Commission is required to determine proper practices to be observed when it finds, upon complaint or on its own motion, that the facilities of any utility subject to its jurisdiction are unreasonable, unsafe, improper, or

insufficient. To assist the Commission in its efforts to comply with this mandate, Mountaineer Cellular should notify the Commission if it does not use this antenna tower to provide cellular radio telecommunications services in the manner set out in its application and this Order. Upon receipt of such notice, the Commission may, on its own motion, institute proceedings to consider the proper practices, including removal of the unused antenna tower, which should be observed by Mountaineer Cellular.

The Commission, having considered the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that Mountaineer Cellular should be granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate the Booneville cell site in RSA No. 10 under its previously approved tariff.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Mountaineer Cellular be and it hereby is granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate the Booneville cell site.

2. Mountaineer Cellular shall file a copy of the final decisions regarding the pending FAA and KAZC applications for this cell site construction within 10 days of receiving these decisions.

3. Mountaineer Cellular shall immediately notify the Commission in writing, if, after the antenna tower is built and utility service is commenced, the tower is not used for a period of 3 months in the manner authorized by this Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 13th day of September, 1995.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director